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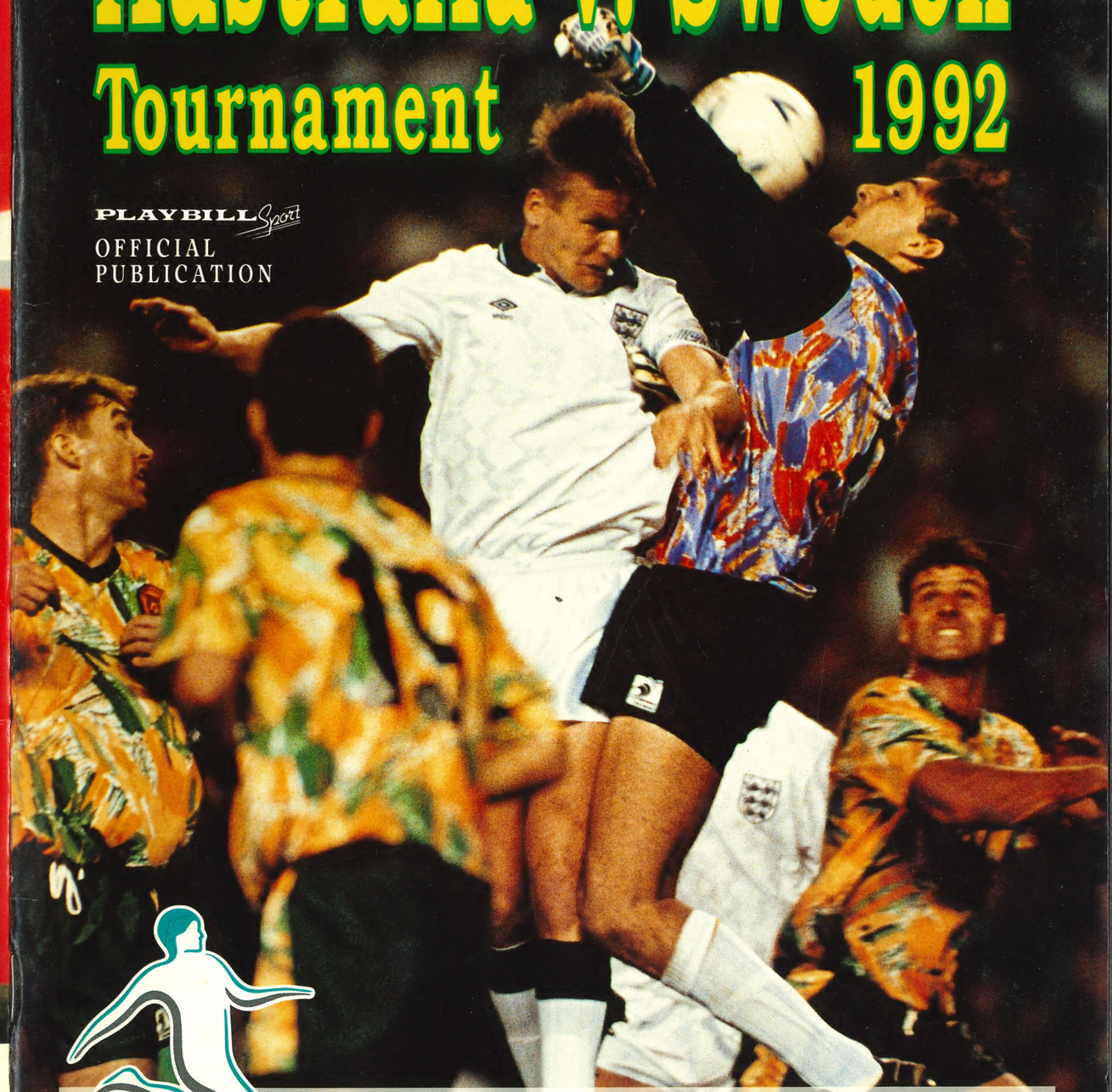
Australia v. Sweden

Tournament 1992

PLAYBILL Sport
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



ASF
Australian Soccer Federation

The Coca-Cola Socceroos

Sydney:	Sydney Football Stadium	*26 January 1992*
Adelaide:	Hindmarsh Stadium	*29 January 1992*
Melbourne:	Olympic Park	*2 February 1992*

Vic Health Foundation

Quit

South Australia

Foundation S.A.

Sporting success and smoking don't mix.

SMOKING WHO NEEDS IT?

THE DRUG OFFENSIVE

ASF
Australian Soccer Federation

ASF
Australian Soccer Federation

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE A.S.F.

On behalf of the Australian Soccer Federation and all soccer followers in Australia, I extend a warm welcome to the players, staff and no doubt, supporters of the Swedish National Team.

We have no doubt that Sweden will be a great challenge to our Coca-Cola Socceroos who are using these games as a build up to our hopeful qualification for USA '94.

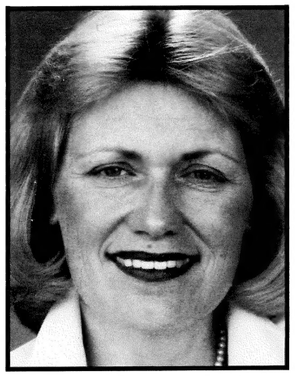
Sweden is a nation with a strong reputation in world soccer, having made a World Cup Final appearance in 1958 against a Pele-inspired Brazil, through to producing world class club sides such as Malmo F.F. and IFK Goteborg who have toured Australia. Sweden will be treating this series with the utmost respect. For as hosts of the European Nations Cup in July of this year, they have been starved of the cut throat competition of qualification. It is essential that they play against a side like our ever improving Coca-Cola Socceroos who are now recognised world wide after the tremendous performance against England in June 1991.

Sweden is similar to Australia in that it is a renowned exporter of players with many of their top stars playing abroad, in the elite leagues of Europe. Like our Coca-Cola Socceroos they will have players who will grab this opportunity to fight for a place in the national team, and I have no doubt when we watch Sweden on our TV in Euro '92 we will see players who earnt the right to play by performance on this tour.

It is appropriate that we thank Coca-Cola, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Foundation South Australia, National Campaign Against Drug Abuse our proud sponsors, who through their support allow us to bring world class football to Australia. I have no doubt that all our fans will wish Sweden an enjoyable time 'Down Under' but will be supporting our Coca-Cola Socceroos in their exciting journey towards USA '94. Thank you for attending tonight, the Coca-Cola Socceroos need your vocal and enthusiastic support.

JOHN CONSTANTINE, O.A.M
CHAIRMAN

Message from the Minister for Sport



MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND TERRITORIES

On behalf of all Australian sports followers I extend a warm welcome to the Swedish National Soccer Team, which is making a historic first ever visit to Australia.

Although this is the Swedish National Team's first visit to Australia, the soccer relationship between Australia and Sweden has been developing steadily in recent years. In 1988, IFK Goteborg, the current Swedish champions, visited Australia. This was followed by the FF Malmo Men's Team visit in 1989 and the tour by the FF Malmo Women's Team in 1991. I am delighted that this relationship has culminated in a tour by the Swedish National Team.

I am sure that the well credentialled Swedish Team, which qualified for the 1990 World Cup and is one of the European teams favoured to qualify for the 1994 World Cup in the USA, will provide exciting action for Australian soccer fans. I understand that this tour is a vital component in the Swedish Team's preparation for the European Championships, which Sweden is hosting in June 1992. It also provides valuable and much needed international competition for our Socceroos in their 1994 World Cup campaign, and will do much to raise the profile of soccer in Australia.

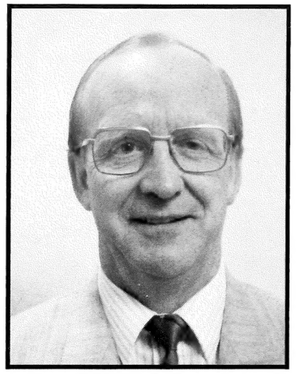
In this context, I am pleased to say the the Australian Government, through the various programs of the Australian Sports Commission, provides significant financial assistance to the Australian Soccer Federation towards the development of soccer in this country. This assistance will include a grant of $250,000 towards the hosting of the 1993 World Youth Soccer Championships in Australia.

I take this opportunity to wish the Socceroos and the Swedish National Soccer Team a successful and keenly contested series and may our overseas visitors have an enjoyable and memorable stay in Australia.

ROS KELLY

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Message from the Swedish Ambassador



SWEDISH EMBASSY

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the Swedish National Soccer Team to Australia. During the season when Sweden is cold, dark and snowy, it must be very thrilling for the Swedish players to have an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful climate and beauty of summer in Australia. Likewise, I trust the Australian players will enjoy meeting the Swedes privately as well as on the field. I am convinced the matches will be hard fought and exciting.

May the best team win !

Bo Heinebäck
Ambassador

Postal address
CANBERRA, A.C.T.
2600

Street address
5, Turrana Street
YARRALUMLA, A.C.T.
2600

Telephone
73 3033

Telegram
SVENSK

Telex
62303

The Coca-Cola Socceroos

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Sydney
Sydney Football Stadium
Sunday, 26 January 1992, 7.30 pm

Preliminary Match: Olympic Squad v NSW, 5.30 pm

Adelaide
Hindmarsh Stadium
Wednesday, 29 January 1992, 8.00 pm

Preliminary Match: Olympic Squad v SA, 6.00 pm

Australia v. Sweden
Tournament 1992

Melbourne
Olympic Park
Sunday, 2 February 1992, 7.30 pm

Preliminary Match: Olympic Squad v Victoria, 5.30 pm

Vic Health Foundation
Quit
South Australia
Foundation S.A.
Sporting success and smoking don't mix.
SMOKING WHO NEEDS IT?
THE DRUG OFFENSIVE

Welcome Svenska Fotbollförbundet

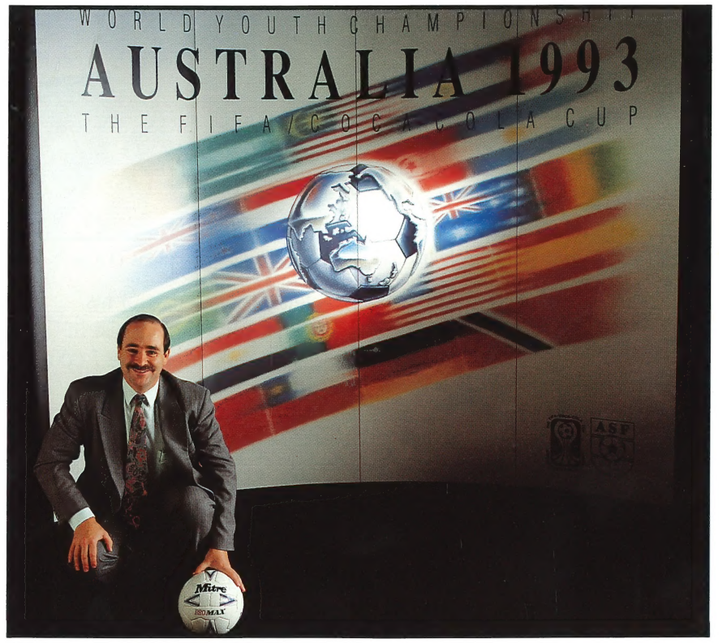
THE AUSTRALIAN football community now has the opportunity of playing host to the Swedish International Side for a three match tournament.

This is the first visit by Sweden to these shores for full internationals. IFK Goteborg and Malmo FF have previously toured. In 1991 the ladies also played three matches against the Malmo Club drawing in Sydney 1–1, losing in Melbourne and Canberra 0–2 and 1–2 respectively.

The tournament series is of great importance to both Australia and Sweden. Sweden has a long history of international football, maybe highlighted by hosting the Olympic Games in 1912 and arranging the World Cup in 1958. Now in 1992 they host the European Football Championship. The draw was recently completed and as hosts Sweden will join France, England and Yugoslavia in one group. The defending champions are, of course, the Netherlands who are in a group with the World Champions, Germany. This tour is a fine warm-up for that tournament commencing in Sweden on June 20.

Equally, the World Cup draw was recently completed in New York and the Barcelona Olympics are not far away. Sweden like Australia has a large number of players playing outside its borders, and this tour gives them the much needed opportunity to assess and co-ordinate the remainder of their national squad.

Australia is in much the same position with 37 Australian players playing in leagues in foreign countries, mainly in Europe. This tour by Sweden gives Eddie Thomson, the Australian coach, ample opportunity to assess his players because he, too, is involved in many aspects in the years to come.



Ian Holmes – Executive Director A.S.F. – in front of the 1993 World Youth Championship banner.

Sweden – National Team 1991.

Australia's 1994 World Cup preparations began against the might of England at the Sydney Football Stadium on June 1 last year. An almost capacity crowd saw the Socceroos play a great game, only going down by an own goal to give a 1–0 result to England.

This was followed by a group participation in the President's Cup in Korea.

The Olympic Squad has progressed and is well on its way towards Barcelona. The Youth Team covered itself in glory in Portugal and this envisages much future in depth for Australian football. Football, soccer, as it is generally accepted, has taken a giant change in direction in recent years. Without in any way

negating the efforts of past administrators, it can safely be said that for the first time it appears that all areas of the game are not only working in parallel lines but walking the same road.

The advent of John Constantine as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, set up upon the recommendation of Dr Bradley's report, has set new goals which can be achieved. In this he is supported by Ian Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, who heads up a fully professional staff at the Association's headquarters.

These two men, whilst arriving as the guiding lights of soccer in Australia, have different backgrounds, yet provide a near perfect interaction for support.

For example, Ian Holmes who commenced his soccer career at 6 years of age, was already the Assistant Secretary of the Canterbury Association at 16, and passing through the position of Club Secretary at 18, became the President of that organisation at the age of 19. Whilst this might have upset some members of the establishment, it certainly helped him to gain his administrative powers over some 5,000 players and introduce new programmes for the betterment of soccer in that area.

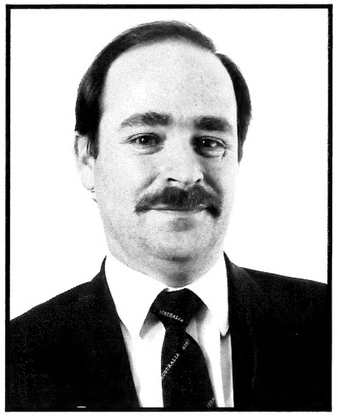
It was, therefore, not long before he was at the coalface of the Sydney Branch of the Amateur Association. This rapid development and background soon brought him to the vice-presidency and then the presidency of the State amateur body, and he joined the senior body as director under the presidency of John Constantine. After four years of work at this level of general manager and being part of the ASF meetings, Ian joined the ASF in April 1991 as Project Manager for the Youth Tournament in 1993. His promotion to his current position

John Constantine O.A.M.

followed. Now part of his responsibility is to assist in the administration of some 7,000 clubs in Australia with a membership totalling in excess of 360,000 players.

Dr Bradley recognised that the Australian Soccer Federation did not properly represent soccer in Australia. With the concurrence of the States, an entirely new programme was put in position. The State holders still have their right to their opinions, yet they all agree that the main four key factors for a successful future are:-

1. A successful National Team
2. A strong viable National League
3. Strong and successful State Leagues
4. Action and an ever-expanding basis for junior development.



Ian Holmes

John Constantine is the current Chairman of ASF after being Chairman of the National Soccer League where he had been associated with Sydney Olympic for some six to seven years. He himself played junior succer up to semi-professional standard in Sydney and while at school represented the Combined High Schools. In between appointments he took a year off to coach U-12s and spend more time with his son in that area. He was President of the New South Wales Association for some seven years.

Since being appointed Chairman of Commissioners he has worked to implement, amongst other developments, the Bradley Report of which he was one of the originators. The administration is now set up on the basis of full-time people in a professional capacity, whether they be in the administrative side or in the coaching field. New Development Officers, Directors of Coaching and many other facets are helping to unify all the previous well meaning segments.

The States have been only too pleased to co-operate and this has given a hands-on administration of many things which are on common ground. Basically, integration has taken place between the Australian Soccer Federation and the National Soccer League, and a Board of Commissioners, four football representatives and two outsiders on a rotating basis, permits policy to be implemented by the professional staff and at the same time maintain continuity.

Soccer, unfortunately, has not always been in the mainstream of sport in Australia and has suffered largely by first of all being promoted by England, Scotland and Ireland and gradually expanding with immigration to take in Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia and other countries. This had led to a diversification which now has to be brought back into line as a cohesive Australian sport. Some aspects still require a lot of work and development.

It not only depends on the efforts of Mr Constantine and Mr Holmes but also on FIFA. An example of this is that it will probably be 1996 before Oceania receives full status as a confederation and, therefore, a totally different approach to world soccer. In the interim we are setting aside in Australia two periods per year for international representation to Australia, and over the next five years should give more of the requisite exposure to our players against top international sides.

When interviewed, Mr Constantine expressed in detail the objectives for Australia in the next few years, again bearing in mind all levels of soccer currently being played: the Juniors, the Youths, the Olympic and the Socceroos. All these are most successful under the current coaching scheme.

'The ultimate objective for the National Team is to breach the gap between our part-time players and the full-time players we are playing against at the senior series international level. Now, until you do that, all the rest of the things and all the rest of the efforts absolutely amount to zero in my calculation. The way you attack this problem is to recognise and adapt to the fact that we have players of exceptional ability who are playing full-time in the European professional clubs. As I said earlier, there are about 37. Obviously selection is vital when we come to the crucial period between the selection and the final identification of the National Team in our cycles of four years, the pinnacle of which is the World Cup. As we come into

Gunnar Nordahl – one of Sweden's most famous players and top scorer in the Italian League five years in a row, together with Tomas Brolin, current Swedish superstar.

those final periods, whether it is, say, two years or eighteen months, once a team is identified, you must by constant regular internationals make that as full-time as you possibly can. Whether the local base players become full-time and integrate with the full-time members of our National Team playing abroad, is really in the hands of the coach.

'From our point of view, the administration's point of view, we will do everything in our power to breach that gap so that these boys are playing at least in that vital period of eighteen months to two years before the actual World Cup qualifiers and that they are playing, as far as we can possibly achieve, on a full-time basis.'

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Australia: Coca-Cola Socceroos

ROBERT ZABICA

Goalkeeper
Adelaide City – 9.4.64

Played for Stirling Macedonia in Perth prior to joining Adelaide City in 1988. He represented South Australia in 1990 and 1991 and made his Australian debut in February 1990 and has appeared on 13 international occasions.

MILAN IVANOVIC

Sweeper
Adelaide City – 21.12.68

Played 4 years for Red Star (Yugoslavia). Represented Australian Socceroos 1991.

ALEX TOBIN

Midfielder
Adelaide City – 3.11.65

Represented his State at Youth level and graduated to play for the Australian Youth Team. Made his first appearance for Australia in 1988 and has since appeared on 22 occasions.

ERNIE TAPAI

Midfielder
Adelaide City – 14.2.69

An Australian Schoolboy International, who had a spell playing in Europe before returning to Australia to play for Sunshine G.C. and finally joining Adelaide City. Made his debut for Australia in 1986 and played against Gothenburg and Dynamo Zagreb in 1988. Played against England and in 2 of the President's Cup Matches in Korea.

NED ZELIC

Defender
Sydney Olympic – 4.7.71

Represented the ACT in the juniors from U/14 to U/19s. Ned has graduated to the Youth team, the Olympic team and Socceroos. Played against England and all 4 President's Cup matches in Korea.

ANDREW BERNAL

Defender/Midfielder
Sydney Olympic – 16.5.66

First senior game in 1988 and has now played 2 games for Australia.

ALISTAIR EDWARDS

Striker
Sydney Olympic – 21.6.68

Has played in Australia, Glasgow Rangers, Brighton and Asia, having made his English debut at Leeds; 2 International games.

IAN GRAY

Midfielder
Marconi-Fairfield – 22.7.63

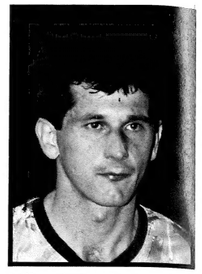
Joined Marconi after having had five years with APIA-Leichhardt. Made his debut for the Socceroos in 1985 when they played Nottingham Forest. Also played in Europe and Asia for the national team. Played against England and in 3 games in the President's Cup in Korea.

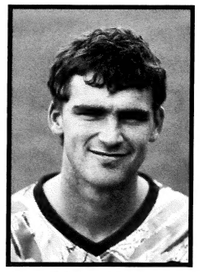
TOM McCULLOCH

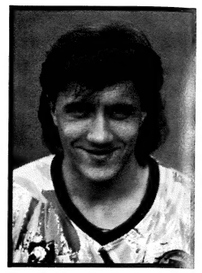
Midfielder
Marconi-Fairfield – 21.2.64

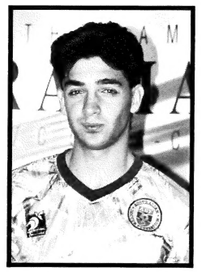
Born in Scotland, joined Marconi via Apia-Leichhardt. Represented Australian Youth and Socceroos.

Robert Zabica

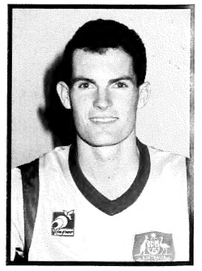

Milan Ivanovic


Alex Tobin

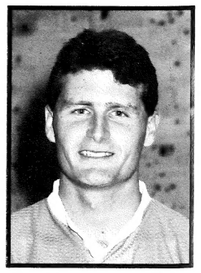

Ernie Tapai


Ned Zelic

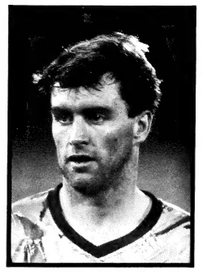
Andrew Bernal


Alistair Edwards

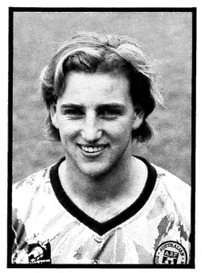
Ian Gray

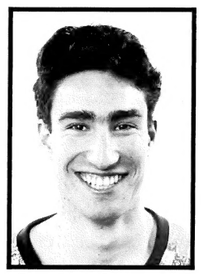

Tom McCulloch

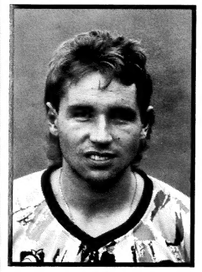
Mehmed Durakovic

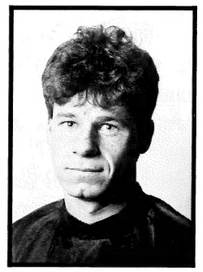

Paul Wade

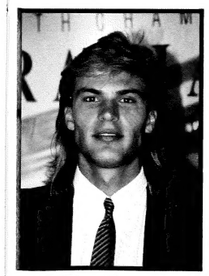
Mike Petersen


Paul Trimboli


Tony Vidmar


Branko Milosevic


Warren Spink


Jason Van Blerk

ASF
Australian Soccer Federation

MEHMED DURAKOVIC

Midfielder
South Melbourne – 13.10.65

Joined his current club from Melbourne J.U.S.T. in 1989. Made his debut for the Australian International side when they played Moscow Torpedo. Played against England and 4 Internationals in President's Cup in Korea.

PAUL WADE
(Captain)

Midfielder
South Melbourne – 20.3.63

Born in England, Paul arrived in Australia as an 11-year-old. Played for a number of Victorian clubs before joining South Melbourne. He first appeared for Australia in 1986 against China and has since represented his country on 60 occasions.

MIKE PETERSEN

Midfielder
South Melbourne – 6.5.65

Joined South Melbourne from Brunswick Juventus in 1989 to further a career which commenced with Heidelberg United. He had a short career with Ajax Amsterdam in 1987. With over 30 appearances, he is now one of Australia's most capped players. 3 games in the President's Cup in Korea.

PAUL TRIMBOLI

Striker
South Melbourne – 5.2.69

Joined his current club from Sunshine G.C. in 1988 after having made his debut in senior soccer in 1987. Has played for Australia at U/16 and Young Socceroo level prior to being drafted into the senior squad.

TONY VIDMAR

Defender
Adelaide City – 4.7.70

Adelaide City regular who is the younger brother of Aurelio Vidmar. Tony is a member of the current Australian Olympic Team and followed his brother into the senior squad after performing well in the Olympic Qualifying Series Oceania group. Played against England and 2 games in the President's Cup.

BRANKO MILOSEVIC

Midfielder
Melbourne Croatia – 21.8.64

Branko came to Australia to join Melbourne Croatia in 1987 after playing for Olympia Osijek in Yugoslavia and U.L.M. in Germany. First International appearance was in 1990 against South Korea. Played in 4 games in the President's Cup (3 as substitute).

WARREN SPINK

Striker
Preston Macedonia – 4.10.66

Born in England, played first senior game in Australia in 1982. Previous club Footscray. Played 10 games for the Youth Team and 20 for the Socceroos.

JASON VAN BLERK

Midfielder
Apia-Leichhardt – 16.3.68

Progressed from NSW U-14s to national level and has now represented his country 5 times in Indonesia and Korea.

STEVE MAXWELL

Striker
Adelaide City – 17.1.65

Previously played for Biricolla, Marconi S.A. 1985-90, Australia 1986-88.

Soccer in South Australia

by ALAN CLARK, Adelaide

RICHARD PARSONS, the quiet man of the SA State team, could not believe the closeness of the squad which gallantly drew 1-1 with Victoria in a Donnybrook interstate clash in November at Mt Gambier in the lush South-East of the State.

He correctly pointed out the State men had only been drafted together for few short weeks to prepare for the $30,000 Fairmont Distinctive challenge series against Adelaide's NSL giants City and West prior to the interstate clash.

But when questions were asked by the Big V in a bruising encounter at the Mount, SA had the character and camaraderie to respond to all challenges.

That kind of spirit was no overnight wonder.

New Coach Martyn Crook, a former Socceroo goalkeeper rewarded with the State responsibility after taking unfashionable Para Hills from Adelaide's hard-working northern suburbs to third spot in the Foundation League, obviously played his part.

Special characteristics among the selected players were influential, too.

But SA also was able to call on a tradition that had been born on successful past tours to India, Penang and Vanuatu.

There has been solidity in the SA administration with only three chief executives in the past 20 years.

Clubs in SA this year voted on several revolutionary changes to take the State beyond 2000.

A six-man team of commissioners, like those directing soccer at national level, was introduced.

A multitude of sponsors have pledged long-term support to the world game in the State.

Sweden v. Brazil – World Cup.

Australian petrol giant Ampol, in fact, has the longest continued support of any sporting event in Australia with more than 30 years backing to its pre-season night tournament.

Government, too, has played its part in the development of Hindmarsh Stadium, the premier ground in SA.

An overall $4.9 million redevelopment plan has been approved by the State Government to bring the stadium up to international standard in time for the 1993 World Youth Cup in Australia.

SA also is a national leader in the development of junior coaching.

Present national director of coaching Mike Wells was instrumental in setting up many world-class programmes.

That has been enhanced by the work of his successor Carlos Buzzetti.

The backing of Foundation SA has seen Centres of Coaching initiated in country areas.

The State team now mirrors the strength of the game in SA.

With Adelaide City providing the nucleus of players for the Socceroo side and several other candidates for the Olympic Games squad, the present Croweater squad is down on the ultimate quality it could muster.

A wry smile creases the lips of national boss Eddie Thomson every time he thinks of Adelaide City.

For, in the former National Soccer League champion and regular soccer trendsetter, Thomson has a side that weekly plays to a style similar to his Socceroos.

Unflappable coach Zoran Matic has developed City's into a winning style.

And that, too, makes Thomson happy.

He has several City regulars on call for national duty.

They know City's playing pattern intimately so the transition to international level is far from traumatic.

And, generally, they have plenty of team-mates with whom to share the load.

Central defender Alex Tobin and sweeper Milan Ivanovic have settled into as good a combination as Laurel and Hardy or Abbott and Costello.

But they provide far fewer laughs for opposing forwards.

Behind them is enigmatic goalkeeper Robert Zabica. He was a cricket fast bowler of note in his home city of Perth in WA before a back problem saw him concentrate on soccer.

Aurelio Vidmar was one of Adelaide and Australia's most exciting, effervescent players for years. He was starting to develop into a key international figure when the glamour and glory of Europe beckoned.

He now is a leading marksman with lowly KV Kortrijk in Belgium but still is very much in Thomson's plans when available.

Younger brother Tony is one of Thomson's likely lads for the future though he already has represented Australia at high school, Olympic team and full senior level.

Flame-haired team-mate striker Carl Veart also is an Olyroo after moving to City from a prolific scoring career in the SA State League with Salisbury United.

Buzz-bomb Ernie Tapai was an international of note in Melbourne. He, too, recognised a move to SA, and City, could improve his standing.

But international honours are nothing new for Croweaters.

Australia's most capped striker, John Kosmina, is a product of the SA breeding ground of stars.

Illustrious skipper Charlie Yankos, though, not starting his career in SA, played briefly for West Adelaide alongside Robbie Dunn, who now is a household name in Malaysian soccer.

State coach Martyn Crook was one of Zabica's predecessors as international team goalkeeper during the halcyon days with West.

Both Adelaide's NSL clubs, City and West Adelaide, now the Sharks, have claimed the national title.

Inevitably, Adelaide City was to the forefront of Socceroo representation.

Eric Norman was a burly striker with a brazen, old-fashioned Scottish approach to football.

Jim 'Jumbo' Muir was an established Scottish professional

Socceroos prior to the night match against England at the Sydney Football Stadium.

City also has won the NSL Cup in 1979 and 1989.

And no fewer than three players from those sides – Graham Honeyman (West), Sergio Melta and Ivanovic (City) have won the coveted NSL Player of the Year award. Honeyman and Melta, like Ivanovic, have worn the green and gold.

SA has built up a tradition of excellence in national team ranks over the past three decades.

Pre-game entertainment at the Australia v. England match.

when he made the move Down Under to Sydney. He made a name in green and gold in Sydney before joining the strength of City.

The late Tom McCall and Steve Hertczeg were others to make the step up into the international arena.

Brothers John and Bugsy Nyskohus showed contrasting style for City but both had the quality to make the green and gold.

Present City assistant coach John Perin, perhaps, was the daddy of all former City international stars.

He now helps the current crop of City champions fashion their skills.

West Adelaide, along with Kosmina and Honeyman, produced a winger of deft skills in Ted De Lyster. He played in some hothouse games on tour in Korea and again successfully made the step from top club soccer to the international arena.

Sweden Squad

SWEDEN HAS about 10 players in foreign clubs, who will be considered for the European Championship. With these clubs Sweden has an agreement according FIFA-model, which allows the use of these players in seven national matches a year, at the most. Since during 1992 Sweden will play 14–15 national matches, including 3–4 World Cup qualification matches, the Swedish FA regretfully has to refrain from nominating these players in certain matches. The tour to Australia takes 16 days, which makes it impossible for Sweden to bring along players who during this period play league matches in their 'new' home country.

However, in the team is included Mats Gren, Grasshoppers, Switzerland (nominated best player in the Swiss league), five players from the Swedish Champions IFK Goteborg and four players from second-placed IFK Norrkoping. Together with five players from our successful Olympic team they form a strong team.

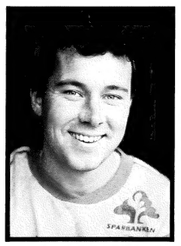
Avid Swedish supporters get behind their national team.

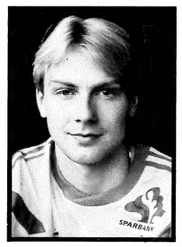
Several of them have played many A-national matches and will definitely be nominated for the European Championship.

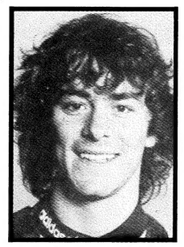
For instance, the goalkeeper Lars Eriksson, the defenders Jan Eriksson, Peter Larsson (former Ajax), Mikael Nilsson, the midfield players Stefan Rehn (former Everton), Hakan Mild and Magnus Erlingmark and the forwards Johnny Ekstrom (former Empoli, Bayern Munich and Cannes), Jonny Rodlund (has been to Anderlecht and Manchester United) and Niclas Kindvall (son of the well-known Ove Kindvall).

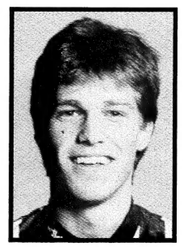
All these 20 players are very anxious to do their utmost to be nominated for the European Championship and the three matches against the national team of Australia are a very important step in our preparations for the European Championship which takes place in Sweden in June 1992.

Mikael Nilsson


Stefen Rehn


Hakan Mild

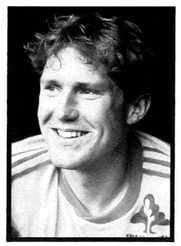

Ken Burwall

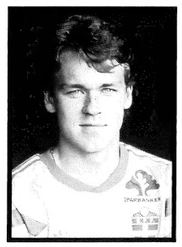

Jens Fjellstrom

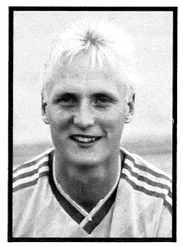
Mikael Martinsson

Peter Larsson

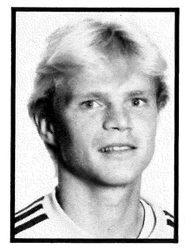
Lars Eriksson


Jan Eriksson


Magnus Erlingmark

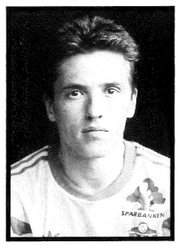

Christer Fursth

Joakim Björklund


Dennis Schiller

Jan Jansson

Patrik Andersson


Mats Gren

Mikael Nilsson
Club: IFK Goteborg
Born: 1968
National Matches: 6A, 14 U21

Stefan Rehn
Club: IFK Goteborg
Born: 1966
National Matches: 20A, 5 OS, 17 U21
Goals: 5

Hakan Mild
Club: IFK Goteborg
Born: 1971
National Matches: 6A, 10 OS/U21
Goals: 1

Johnny Ekstrom
Club: IFK Goteborg
Born: 1965
National Matches: 33A, 12 U21
Goals: 11

Ken Burwall
Club: Djurgardens IF
Born: 1966
National Matches: 1A

Jens Fjellstrom
Club: Djurgardens IF
Born: 1966
National Matches: 1A

Mikael Martinsson
Club: Djurgardens IF
Born: 1966
National Matches: 3A, 8 U21

Peter Larsson
Club: AIK
Born: 1965
National Matches: 46A, 9 U21
Goals: 4

Lars Eriksson
Club: IFK Norrkoping
Born: 1965
National Matches: 6A, 15 U21

Jan Eriksson
Club: IFK Norrkoping
Born: 1967
National Matches: 13A, 15 U21
Goals: 1

Magnus Erlingmark
Club: Orebro SK
Born: 1968
National Matches: 13A, 10 U21
Goals: 1

Christer Furath
Club: Orebro SK
Born: 1970
National Matches: 14 OS, 1 J

Joakim Bjorklund
Club: Brann
Born: 1971
National Matches: 17 OS/U21, 12 J, 12 P

Dennis Schiller
Club: Lillestrom SK
Born: 1965
National Matches: 13A, 3 OS, 16 U21
Goals: 1

Jan Jansson
Club: Osters IF
Born: 1968
National Matches: 1A, 14 U21, 2 J

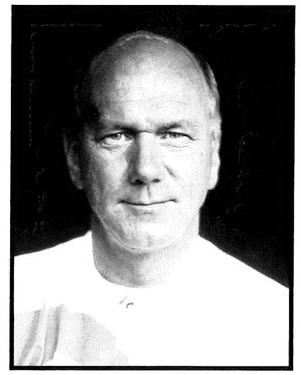
Patrik Andersson
Club: Malmo FF
Born: 1971
National Matches: 12 OS/U21 15 J, 20 P

Mats Gren
Club: Grasshoppers
Born: 1963
National Matches: 19A, 12 U21

Jonnie Fedel
Club: Malmo FF
Born: 1966
National Matches: 1 U21

Niclas Kindvall
Club: IFK Norrkoping
Born: 1967
National Matches: 1 U21

Jonny Rodlund
Club: IFK Norrkoping
Born: 1971
National Matches: 1A, 12 OS, 2 U21, 30 J



NATIONAL COACH TOMMY SVENSSON
Born: March 4, 1945
Former clubs as player:
Osters IF – 1971
Standard Liege 1971-73
Osters IF 1973-77
Swedish Champion 1968
Swedish Cup Champion 1977
'Gulbollen' 1969
Played in the World Cup 1970
40 appearances in the national team (first appearance May 17 Sweden-DDR-0-1)
Former clubs as coach:
Osters IF 1978-84 (team manager)
Alvesta Golf 1985-86
Tromso IL 1988-90
Coach for the Swedish national team since 1991

Sweden on the World Scene

by Les Murray, SBS

JUST THREE things Sweden and Australia have in common: both play their football in the summer, both have roughly the same number of players and both are forced to export them.

Add to that the fact that most home based Swedish players operate as semi-pros and you have recipe which makes the Australia v Sweden series ostensibly an evenly matched affair.

Until you come to the differences.

While Australia grapples with its adolescent status as a soccer power, Sweden's football, much more than its renowned tennis, is rooted in solid ground. Although most prefer to think of Germany, Italy, Brazil or Argentina when conjuring up thoughts of international glamour and prestige, the Swedes can be gratified by their own status which rises well above the expectations of such a small country.

Indeed, if you measure success in direct proportion to population size (Sweden has 8.5 million inhabitants), only Uruguay and Holland can match them.

Sweden has been World Cup runner-up, has won Olympic gold and has qualified for all but two of the last six World Cup final tournaments. One could even stop to think about the glamorous status given to England's visit to Australia last June. After all, in its quest to qualify for the 1990 World Cup, England came second in its group. Sweden was first.

In overall World Cup records, since 1930, Sweden is ranked 13th out of 58.

And the Swedish export programme has given the country a presence in all parts of Europe and beyond. Limpar of Arsenal, Hysen of Liverpool, Brolin of Parma, Patterson of Ajax and Thern of Benfica are only recent examples. And their coaches, like Sven Eriksson of Benfica and Nils Liedholm, now retired but once voted the best coach in the world, have global respect.

Yet Swedish football success is a relatively modern phenomenon and one needs only to go back to this side of the Second World War in search of its historic landmarks. Before then the country's international competence was hamstrung by the sport's strictly amateur status to the extent that its arguably best ever player, Gunnar Nordahl, was not permitted to play for his country after he turned professional in 1949.

Johnny Ekström in action.

But by the time he did, he helped Sweden reach a stunning pinnacle: winning the gold medal at the London Olympics of 1948, beating Yugoslavia 3-1 in the final and scoring a staggering 22 goals in four games.

But the team, coached by Englishman George Raynor, was no one-man band. Nordahl was at the centre of a devastating trio forming the Swedish attack and which was to reach legendary status in Swedish sport. Gunnar Gren, who died only last year at the age of 71, and Nils Liedholm were on either side of him.

All three, known to this day as GRE-NO-LI, were promptly snapped up by Italy's AC Milan in the same way a latter-day Milan turned to harnessing the talents of the Dutch trio Gullit, Rijkaard and Van Basten. The three Swedes were to take Milan to unprecedented heights and although only Liedholm finished his career at Milan, they played on in Italy for nearly a decade among an army of Swedish players that were to follow them to the land of the lira.

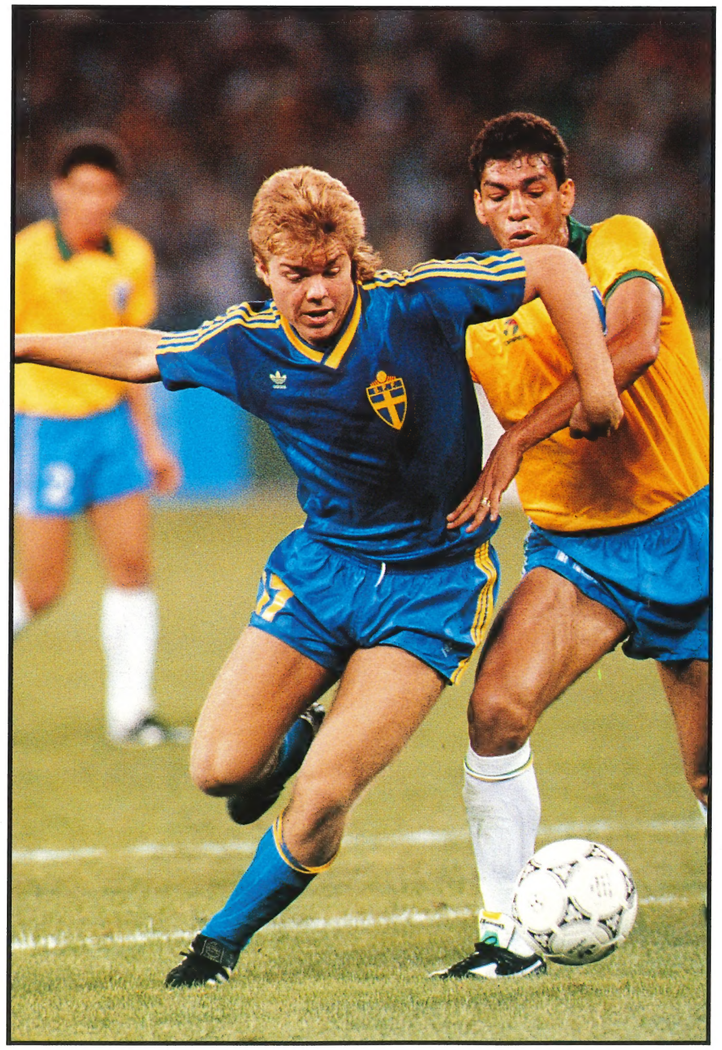
Even today's fabulous Milan cannot cloud the memory of GRE-NO-LI, particularly Nordahl who scored an amazing 225 goals in 291 Italian first division games.

Sweden had to rethink on its rules regarding amateurism by the time it hosted the World Cup in 1958 and though the heroes of London were ageing fast, it very nearly pulled off the big one. By then Nordahl was overlooked, replaced by the younger Simonssen, but with Gren, Liedholm (37 and 36 respectively) and with all of seven players with a taste of the Italian first division, Sweden made the final to be beaten by a magnificent Brazil.

That was the World Cup of Pele, Garrincha, Didi, Kopa and Fontaine. But until the Brazilian samba got into its groove in the second half of the final, Sweden matched them all, overcoming Wales, Hungary, Mexico, the USSR and then world champions West Germany to reach the showdown with the irresistible Brazilians.

It was a freakish period for Swedish football, one that produced other legendary figures like Kurt Hamrin and Nacka Skoglund, and, on the negative side, a tough act to follow. Such heights, except at club level with Gothenburg winning the UEFA Cup in the '80s and Malmo reaching the European Cup final in the '70s, were never reached since.

But the GRE-NO-LI era had its legacy in lifting Swedish football to a level of consistency it has since maintained.



Swedish star Tomas Brolin in action in the World Cup.

The Swedes missed the World Cup finals of 1962, 1966, 1982 and 1986 but made the others since their heyday, doing best in 1974 when they held the glorious, Cruyff-led Holland 0-0 before succumbing to eventual winners West Germany and bronze medallists Poland in the second round.

After the disappointment of Italia 90, when Brazil and Costa Rica undid them, new coach Tommy Svensson promises a new era in a challenging time for his country. It is he who has to guide Sweden through the European Championships the country will be hosting in June and in which especially the old timers will want the team to do as well as it did in 1958.

Gunnar Nordahl, now a portly and grey haired 70-year old, likes the new Sweden, admiring the refreshing attacking mentality of the squad under Svensson's guidance.

But even he, Gunnar by name and persuasion, must know his era is one that will perhaps never be surpassed.

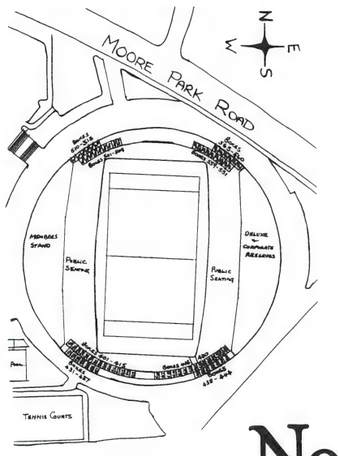
He scored a total of 453 goals in 33 internationals for Sweden, once hit five goals in one game – a 5-3 away win over Norway – was top scored in the Italian first division five seasons running and bagged an amazing 36 goals in 38 matches for Milan in one season . . . a feat not equalled before or since.

With a number of Svensson's attackers, notably Brolin, Limpar and Dahlin, not on the trip to Australia because of club commitments in foreign leagues, the coach will be seeking some discoveries against the Socceroos.

Maybe a new Swedish star will emerge in Sydney, Adelaide or Melbourne. Maybe, dare I say it, a new Nordahl?

Fourth in the world – Australian Youth Team in Portugal, 1991.

Message from the Premier of NSW



Premier of New South Wales
Australia

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

THE HON. NICK GREINER M.P.

I am delighted to be able to welcome the members of the Swedish National Soccer Team to Australia. On behalf of my Government and the people of New South Wales, I wish the players, coach, manager and all those travelling with the team, a most successful tour.

Soccer is an extremely popular sport in New South Wales, and is played extensively throughout our schools. This augurs well for its future and for our potential as competitors on the world scene.

Visiting teams from other soccer nations, such as Sweden, contribute greatly to elevating the level of public interest and encouraging more and more players to become actively involved.

We look forward to excellent matches in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, played with great skill and in good spirit.

Nick Greiner M.P.

Sydney, New South Wales
January 1991

8TH FLOOR, STATE OFFICE BLOCK, MACQUARIE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000, AUSTRALIA. TEL: 228 5239 FAX: 252 2291

New South Wales

by MICHAEL COCKERILL
of The Sydney Morning Herald

RAUL BLANCO, the new coach of NSW, wants to put the meaning back into the famous sky blue jersey – and he wants to start right now.

Blanco, the popular coach of Parramatta Melita and a member of the Australian Soccer Federation's coaching panel, will take charge of the state team for the first time today when NSW take on the national Olympic (under-23) side at the Sydney Football Stadium.

SYDNEY

26/1/92 – SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM – 7.30 pm
AUSTRALIAN COCA-COLA SOCCEROOS v. SWEDEN

Referee: G. Power *Linesmen:* M. Loupis – G. Dunster
Inspector: K. Lockrey *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* J. McConnell

COCA-COLA SOCCEROO SQUAD

- ☐ Robert Zabica *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Milan Ivanovic *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Alex Tobin *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ernie Tapai *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ned Zelic *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Andrew Bernal *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Alistair Edwards *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Ian Gray *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Tom McCulloch *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Mehmet Durakovic *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Wade (C) *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Mike Petersen *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Trimboli *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Tony Vidmar *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Branko Milosevic *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Warren Spink *Preston*
- ☐ Jason Van Blerk *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Maxwell *Adelaide City*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirt, green shorts, white socks

SWEDEN SQUAD

- ☐ Mikael Nilsson *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Stefan Rehn *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Hakan Mild *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Johnny Ekstrom *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Ken Burwall *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Jens Fjellstrom *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Mikael Martinsson *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Peter Larsson *AIK*
- ☐ Lars Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jan Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Magnus Erlingmark *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Christer Furath *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Joakim Bjorklund *Brann*
- ☐ Dennis Schiller *Lillestrom SK*
- ☐ Jan Jansson *Osters IF*
- ☐ Patrick Andersson *Malmo FF*
- ☐ Mats Gren *Grasshoppers*
- ☐ Jonnie Fedel Malmo FF
- ☐ Niclas Kindvall *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jonny Rodlund *IFK Norrkoping*

Coach: Tommy Svensson
Colours: Blue shirts, yellow shorts, blue socks

5.30 pm
AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC XI v. NEW SOUTH WALES STATE XI

Referee: P. Spiers *Linesmen:* J. Cameron – N. Jones
Inspector: W. Phelps *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* A. Spiroski

COCA-COLA OLYMPIC SQUAD

- ☐ John Filan *Wollongong City*
- ☐ Mark Bosnich *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Milan Blagojevic *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ David Seal *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Damian Mori *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Dominic Longo (C) *Newcastle BHP*
- ☐ Shaun Murphy *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Greg Dickinson *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ Kevin Muscat *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Paul Souris *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ John Gibson *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ George Sifkas *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Eric Hristodolou *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Steve Refenes *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Carl Veart *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Gary Hasler *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Peter Bennett *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Corica *Marconi-Fairfield*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirts, green shorts, white socks

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE XI

- ☐ Michael Gibson *Newcastle BHP*
- ☐ Robert Catlin *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Robert Wheatley *Parrramatta Melita*
- ☐ Andy Koczka *Newcastle BHP*
- ☐ David Barrett *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Gary Van Egmond *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Mark Babic *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Robert Hooker *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Michael Grbevski *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Andrew Callanan *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ Gus Cerro *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Manis Lamond *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Tony Krslovic *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Greg Brown *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ David Lowe *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Aytec Genc *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ George Jolevski *Sydney Croatia*

Coach: Raul Blanco
Colours: Royal and Sky Blue

The game, although only a curtain-raiser to the main fixture between the Socceroos and Sweden, represents a new beginning for state football in this country.

The NSW Soccer Federation, together with its counterparts from other states, wants to revive interstate rivalry and this game against the Olympic team (the series also involves Victoria and SA) is designed to set the ball rolling. A home-and-away series against Queensland in June and a tour to Asia at the end of the winter season are also on the agenda for the Sky Blues before a full-scale interstate carnival gets underway next year.

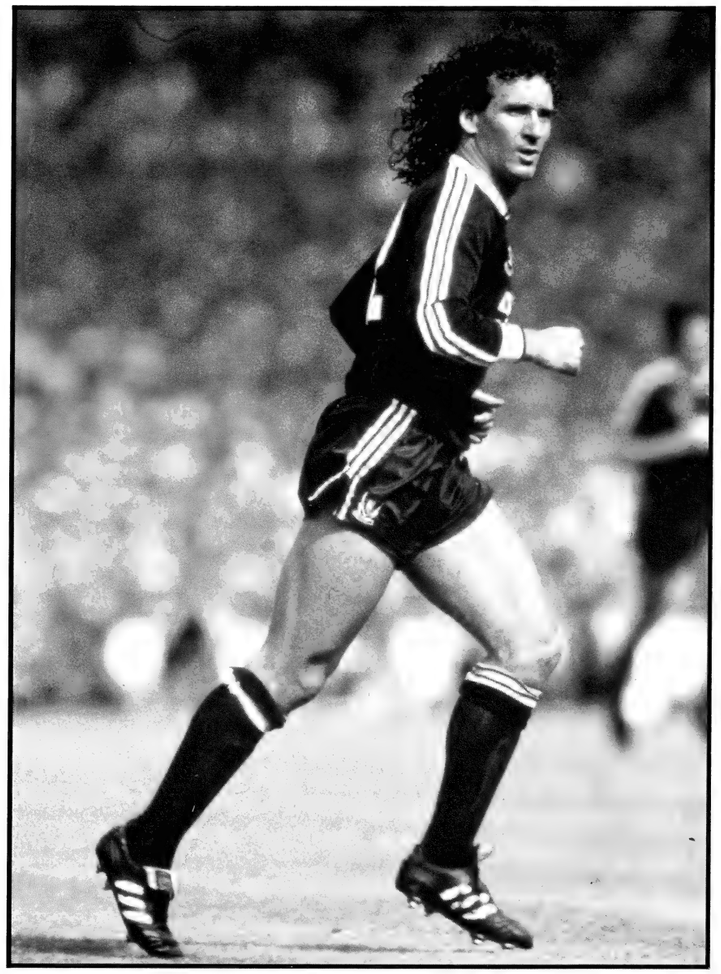
'I have lived in NSW ever since I migrated from Argentina so I consider it an honour to be picked as state coach,' Blanco says. 'I love NSW, and I want the players to understand that it is an honour to represent their state.'

Given that the NSW squad has been selected in consultation with national coach Eddie Thomson, there are more tangible benefits on offer as well. Thomson has made no secret of the fact that he regards the revival of interstate football as a perfect forum for fringe players to press their international claims.

In this light it is clear that a number of players with previous Socceroo experience are being offered a second chance with their selection for NSW today. Strikers David Lowe and Greg Brown, goalkeeper Anthony Franken and midfielders Aytec Genc and Andrew Cailanan were all involved with the national team at some stage last year, but for various reasons have fallen out of favour.

'This is not a muck-around side, for a lot of these guys their international careers are on the line,' says Blanco.

The NSW side is certainly full of quality in every position, and



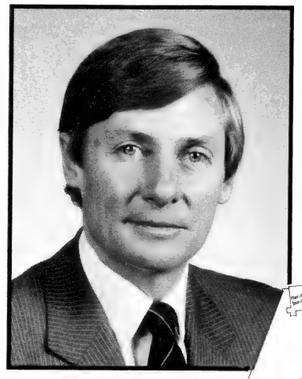
Craig Johnston – an instigator of Roo Ball.

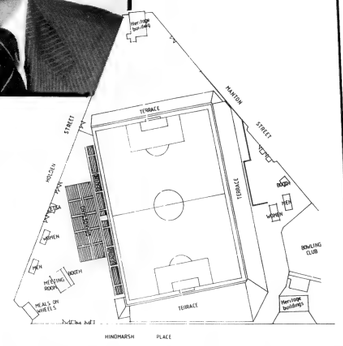
will provide a harder test for the Olympic team than that offered by the under-23 sides of New Zealand, PNG and Fiji during the Oceania qualifying tournament last November.

For the purists the most interesting selection for NSW is that of flying Sydney Croatia winger Manis Lamond, a player who has promised so much but has delivered relatively little. On his day Lamond is perhaps the most exciting player in the country, but he must make the most of this final chance if he is ever to develop some sort of representative career.

Children who demonstrated Roo Ball before the Australia v. England match.

Message from the Premier of South Australia





THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE FROM
THE HON J C BANNON MP
17TH DECEMBER, 1991

FOR THE VISIT OF THE NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM OF SWEDEN

South Australians are particularly delighted to welcome the Swedish Soccer Team for their match at the Hindmarsh Stadium.

Of all the Australian States, South Australia has developed the strongest ties with Sweden – and our relationship continues to grow.

Swedish experts have settled in Adelaide following our success in winning the headquarters of the Australian Submarine Project. In recent time we have also seen a decision by NobelTech to establish its Australian headquarters in Adelaide, which will build on the Swedish lifestyle that seems at home in the Adelaide environment.

As well, Sweden is one of the largest international consumers of South Australian wine – a business connection we hope to see further expand to the benefit of both Swedish consumers and South Australian producers.

Soccer is a sport which has become a great favourite in South Australia, with local teams and players making their name on the national and international circuits.

The South Australian Soccer Federation has worked to promote the sport and the competition to a level where we are proud to play host to this important series.

My congratulations to all those involved in organising this series and I am sure that you will enjoy your visit to Adelaide, both on and off the field.

JOHN BANNON
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STATE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE VICTORIA SQUARE ADELAIDE SA 5000 TEL. (08) 226 3505 ISD 61-8-226 3505 FAX (08) 231 1731
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South Australia looks to the future

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, for many, definitely has been the stepping stone to the top.

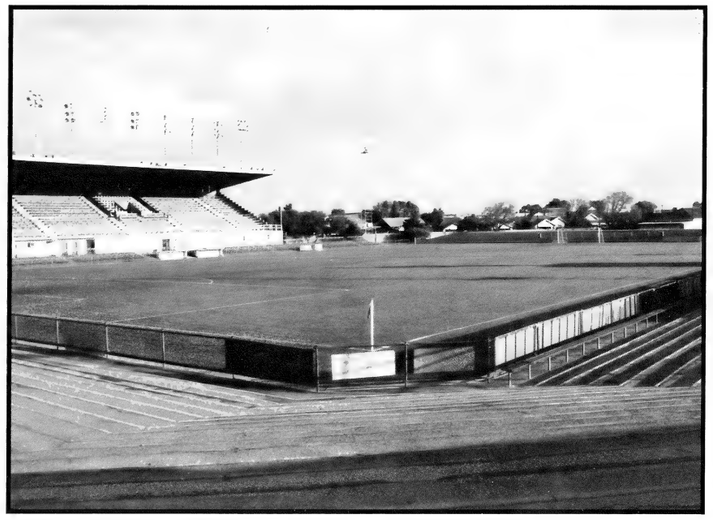
And several new faces could be ready for the trail.

Joey Paul Agostino has been a sensation in his first NSL season with West.

A hat-trick against Mexico in the world under-17 championships in Italy marked Agostino as someone special.

His continued starring performances saw him earn selection in the MasterCard All-star XI at the end of the championships.

Scouts from Italian giants



ADELAIDE

29/1/92 – HINDMARSH – 8.00 pm
AUSTRALIAN COCA-COLA SOCCEROOS v. SWEDEN

Referee: T. McRoe *Linesmen:* R. Jones – T. Martell
Inspector: R. Kerr *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* M. Ingham

COCA-COLA SOCCEROO SQUAD

- ☐ Robert Zabica *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Milan Ivanovic *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Alex Tobin *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ernie Tapai *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ned Zelic *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Andrew Bernal *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Alistair Edwards *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Ian Gray *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Tom McCulloch *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Mehmet Durakovic *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Wade (C) *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Mike Petersen *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Trimboli *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Tony Vidmar *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Branko Milosevic *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Warren Spink *Preston*
- ☐ Jason Van Blerk *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Maxwell *Adelaide City*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirt, green shorts, white socks

SWEDEN SQUAD

- ☐ Mikael Nilsson *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Stefan Rehn *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Hakan Mild *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Johnny Ekstrom *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Ken Burwall *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Jens Fjellstrom *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Mikael Martinsson *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Peter Larsson *AIK*
- ☐ Lars Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jan Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Magnus Erlingmark *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Christer Furath *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Joakim Bjorklund *Brann*
- ☐ Dennis Schiller *Lillestrom SK*
- ☐ Jan Jansson *Osters IF*
- ☐ Patrick Andersson *Malmo FF*
- ☐ Mats Gren *Grasshoppers*
- ☐ Jonnie Fedel Malmo FF
- ☐ Niclas Kindvall *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jonny Rodlund *IFK Norrkoping*

Coach: Tommy Svensson
Colours: Blue shirts, yellow shorts, blue socks

6.00 pm
AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC XI v. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE XI

Referee: M. Browning *Linesmen:* J. Biddis – T. Scanlon
Inspector: F. Chadwick *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* J. Papanicolas

COCA-COLA OLYMPIC SQUAD

- ☐ John Filan *Wollongong City*
- ☐ Mark Bosnich *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Milan Blagojevic *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ David Seal *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Damian Mori *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Dominic Longo (C) *Newcastle BHP*
- ☐ Shaun Murphy *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Greg Dickinson *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ Kevin Muscat *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Paul Souris *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ John Gibson *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ George Sifkas *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Eric Hristodolou *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Steve Refenes *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Carl Veart *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Gary Hasler *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Peter Bennett *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Corica *Marconi-Fairfield*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirts, green shorts, white socks

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE XI

- ☐ Colin Miller *Croatia*
- ☐ Neville Flounders *Salisbury United*
- ☐ Jeff Tyson *Salisbury United*
- ☐ Andrew Read *E.D. Azzurri*
- ☐ Bruno Silvestri *E.D. Azzurri*
- ☐ Mark Yates *Para Hills*
- ☐ Graham Campbell *Blackwood*
- ☐ Christian Bunke *USC Lions*
- ☐ Tony Gasparetto *Salisbury United*
- ☐ Paul Simmons *Salisbury United*
- ☐ Damien Harley *Azzurri*
- ☐ Alby Kidd *Croatia*
- ☐ Dennis Martinello *Beograd*
- ☐ Archie Christakos *Croatia*
- ☐ Richard Parsons *Modbury*
- ☐ Paul Blute *Para Hills*
- ☐ Shane Porter *Polonia*
- ☐ Juan Rodriguez *Croatia*

Coach: Martyn Crook
Colours: Red, Yellow, Navy Blue

Hoover* is the **FIRST** and **ONLY** laundry appliance manufacturer **EVER** to achieve the Australian Design Award for washing machines (top & front loading) and dryers. Amongst other things, it was awarded for design, construction, durability, performance, reliability, ergonomics, and of course, how it looks. When you see the Australian Design Award symbol you know that this Australian made product is truly world class.

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AC Milan and Napoli keenly followed his progress.

They and Dutch champion PSV Eindhoven now want to entice the 16-year-old to Europe at the end of this NSL season.

Agostino looks a certain senior international of the future after only a handful of NSL games.

He has that certain touch of magic that sets apart the special from the run of the mill pros.

City brothers Ross and John Aloisi also have attracted international recognition.

Midfielder Ross, 19, has played for the Joeys in the world titles in Scotland and gradually is establishing himself as a budding NSL talent.

John, 15, is a pacy, aggressive striker, who already has represented SA at youth level and played in the senior City side.

A year in 1992 at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, under the guidance of senior coach Ron Smith, could be just the flip to push his international aims.

He will be joined there by another SA youngster with limitless potential. He is Jamie Perin, the 15-year-old son of John. Could he be the first son of a Socceroo father also to earn an international cap?

One final face from the crowd to watch from SA is State under-15 captain Brian Launders.

Pencil thin and lightning quick, the midfielder already has played senior soccer with Polonia and is sure to catch the NSL eye.

Perhaps City will call him aboard.

In the longer term, that could see another smile cross our international bosses' lips.

Top: *Paul Wade leads the Socceroos onto the Sydney Football Stadium v. England.*

Right: *Nothing generates more excitement than when a goal is scored.*

The Australian Olympic Team

by MICHAEL COCKERILL
of The Sydney Morning Herald

LIKE A GOOD wine the team earmarked to lead Australia to glory at the Barcelona Olympics has grown better with age.

It is no secret that coach Eddie Thomson was less than enthusiastic with the initial sampling of under-23 players he called together midway through 1990. A subsequent tour to Europe, although encouraging, still failed to convince him that he had a team capable of qualifying for the Barcelona Games.

Now, however, it is a different story and Thomson has every faith that his under-23 team, circa 1992, can overcome the final hurdle of a play-off in Europe and take part in the Olympics later this year. Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is even more optimistic. 'If we get to Barcelona then I fancy our chances of getting a medal,' he says.

Such is the measure of progress made by the Olyroos (as they have become known) over the past two years that the infectious confidence of Bosnich does not seem out of place.

Part of the reason is that a number of players have exceeded all expectations and have proven themselves to be of genuine international quality. Put the likes of Ned Zelic, Damien Mori, Dominic Longo and Shaun Murphy into this basket.

Another reason is the international exposure gained by members of the Youth (under-20) team, which won a bronze medal at the world championships last year. David Seal, Bosnich, Paul Okon, Kevin Muscat and, most likely, Lorenz Kindtner, have all managed, or are about to manage, the transition to the Olympic team and have clearly benefited from their experience in Portugal.

And finally, there is the education provided by full-time professionalism to consider. Bosnich spent most of the past three years with Manchester United, Okon and Kindtner joined Club Brugge last year, while Belgian-based striker Zlatko Arambasic, who has been with Mechelen for three seasons, is earmarked to join the squad in the near future. All of these players have developed markedly through playing their club football in Europe.

Put all of this together, and it is not hard to see why the future looks much rosier these days. Indeed, when Thomson finally brings all of his best players together, as he will do when the

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team plays-off against a European team in March, then Australia will be capable of beating any opposition.

It was towards the end of last year – on the dry, dusty pitches of western Fiji – when the under-23 side began to show signs of great promise. With a team consisting entirely of home-based players, Australia easily won the Oceania qualifying tournament – albeit against very modest opposition.

Regardless of the poor standard of opponents Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, several important improvements could be observed. Perhaps the most encouraging sign came in the centre of defence, where the previously unheralded combination of Dominic Longo and Shaun Murphy proved to be the cornerstone of Australia's success.

These two players gave the Olympic side the defensive solidarity that was necessary for fullbacks Tony Vidmar and Milan Blagojevic and majestic sweeper Ned Zelic to move forward with some conviction (as they must do to allow the 5-3-2 formation to function smoothly). When you consider that youngster Kevin Muscat, probably the next captain of our youth team, did not make the trip to Fiji because of injury, then it is clear Thomson has no reason to be concerned with his defence.

There is no reason to worry about the goalkeeping position, either, with Bosnich and first-choice John Filan now engaged in an absorbing battle for the No.1 jersey. Both keepers are supremely talented, the equal of any in the world.

The other positive factors from Fiji included the return to scoring form of striker David Seal, the more valuable contribution of John Markovski on the left side of midfield, and the emergence of Damian Mori as a willing worker on the right, either in midfield or defence.

It was not all beer and skittles, however. What also became clear under the scorching sun in Nadi, Lautoka and Ba was that Australia's midfield needs to be improved. Neither George Slifkas nor Eric Hristodoulou looked especially convincing in the playmaker's role, and Thomson is now casting an enthusiastic eye towards Okon and Kindtner as offering some sort of solution.

Slifkas and Hristodoulou are by no means out of the running, but, like everyone else in the 16-man squad which travelled to Fiji, they are well aware that the closer it gets to Barcelona, the more intense the competition for places will be.

Thomson, certainly, is demanding that his team improve at every outing, and these three matches against the state sides of NSW, South Australia and Victoria will give him a better insight into which of his home-based players deserve to stay in the reckoning.

There are also new claims to consider – over the next week an injury-free Muscat will be challenging for a spot, while Apia-Leichhardt's talented midfielder Paul Souris will also be looking to force his way into contention.

Such healthy competition, of course, bodes well for our hopes of getting to Barcelona. Four years ago in Seoul, Australia was represented by the full national side, and the Socceroos covered themselves in glory by reaching the quarter-finals – picking up the prized scalp of Yugoslavia (including the gifted Dragan Stojkovic) along the way.

Now it is the turn of the under-23 contingent, and there is no reason to believe that similar

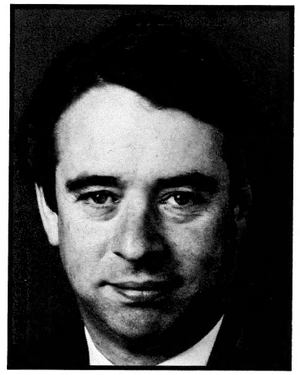
Below right: *John Filan – current first choice Olympic Team goalkeeper.*
Below left: *Mark Bosnic – Contender for the No. 1 jersey in the Olympic Team.*

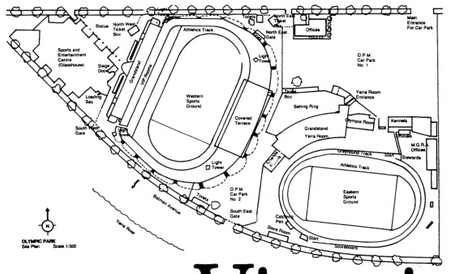
achievements are beyond them. The progress over the past two years has been substantial, while the inclusion of the overseas-based players will make the team even more competitive.

And if the Olyroos do make it to Barcelona, then Bosnich may just be proved right. Players such as Zelic, Blagojevic, Vidmar, Markovski, Seal and Okon are the equal – at this age group – of most of their peers, anywhere in the world. What's more, they believe in themselves, and the growing strength of the Australian Game.

So when you settle into your seat today consider this, and take a closer look at the players in the curtain-raiser who are wearing the green and gold. This time next year you may be kicking yourself if you didn't ask for their autographs. You have been warned.

Message from the Acting Premier of Victoria





PREMIER OF VICTORIA
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone (03) 651 5111
Telex No. AA32636

Our Ref:

Message from the Acting Premier of Victoria
The Hon Jim Kennan MP

I am very happy to welcome the National Soccer Team of Sweden, officials and guests to Victoria for the third and final soccer match between Australia and Sweden.

Melbourne prides itself on being the sporting capital of Australia, so it is a great pleasure to be able to stage one of the test matches at Olympic Park. This tour is the first by such a team from Sweden.

Visits by sports teams from overseas provide great benefits to players and spectators alike. They offer our home teams valuable experience in an international competition, and give sports lovers the thrill of seeing some first-class performances.

I trust that competitors, officials and visitors will have a very enjoyable stay in Victoria. My best of luck to the competitors for their test match, and hope that this visit is the first of many more to Melbourne and Victoria.

J. H. Kennan

JIM KENNAN
Acting Premier

Victorian State Squad

JEFF OLVER

Victorian Representative – Australian Representative – 53 appearances – 2 World Cup campaigns – 1988 Seoul Olympics – Victorian Development Officer.

PHIL STUBBINS

Victorian Representative – Former professional in England with Hull City – currently one of most consistent midfielders in country.

ANGIE GOUTZIOULIS

Training Squad for the Olympic Team – Former Caulfield player – great prospect.

MELBOURNE

2/2/92 – OLYMPIC PARK MELBOURNE – 7.30 pm
AUSTRALIAN COCA-COLA SOCCEROOS v. SWEDEN

Referee: J. Fraser *Linesmen:* E. Brazzale – J. Rutter
Inspector: J. Fearn *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* N. Zachariades

COCA-COLA SOCCEROO SQUAD

- ☐ Robert Zabica *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Milan Ivanovic *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Alex Tobin *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ernie Tapai *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Ned Zelic *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Andrew Bernal *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Alistair Edwards *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Ian Gray *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Tom McCulloch *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Mehmet Durakovic *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Wade (C) *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Mike Petersen *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Paul Trimboli *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Tony Vidmar *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Branko Milosevic *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Warren Spink *Preston*
- ☐ Jason Van Blerk *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Maxwell *Adelaide City*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirt, green shorts, white socks

SWEDEN SQUAD

- ☐ Mikael Nilsson *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Stefan Rehn *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Hakan Mild *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Johnny Ekstrom *IFK Goteborg*
- ☐ Ken Burwall *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Jens Fjellstrom *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Mikael Martinsson *Djurgardens IF*
- ☐ Peter Larsson *AIK*
- ☐ Lars Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jan Eriksson *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Magnus Erlingmark *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Christer Furath *Orebro SK*
- ☐ Joakim Bjorklund *Brann*
- ☐ Dennis Schiller *Lillestrom SK*
- ☐ Jan Jansson *Osters IF*
- ☐ Patrick Andersson *Malmo FF*
- ☐ Mats Gren *Grasshoppers*
- ☐ Jonnie Fedel Malmo FF
- ☐ Niclas Kindvall *IFK Norrkoping*
- ☐ Jonny Rodlund *IFK Norrkoping*

Coach: Tommy Svensson
Colours: Blue shirts, yellow shorts, blue socks

5.30 pm
AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC XI v. VICTORIAN STATE XI

Referee: J. Santa-Isabel *Linesmen:* D. Millican – J. Hogg
Inspector: N. Ceeney *Reserve Referee & Fourth Official:* Z. Mnich

COCA-COLA OLYMPIC SQUAD

- ☐ John Filan *Wollongong City*
- ☐ Mark Bosnich *Sydney Croatia*
- ☐ Milan Blagojevic *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ David Seal *Marconi-Fairfield*
- ☐ Damian Mori *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Dominic Longo (C) *Newcastle BHP*
- ☐ Shaun Murphy *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Greg Dickinson *Parramatta Melita*
- ☐ Kevin Muscat *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Paul Souris *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ John Gibson *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ George Sifkas *Heidelberg*
- ☐ Eric Hristodolou *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Steve Refenes *Sydney Olympic*
- ☐ Carl Veart *Adelaide City*
- ☐ Gary Hasler *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Peter Bennett *Apia-Leichhardt*
- ☐ Steve Corica *Marconi-Fairfield*

Coach: Eddie Thomson
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug
Colours: Green/gold shirts, green shorts, white socks

VICTORIAN STATE XI

- ☐ Jeff Olver *Heidelberg United*
- ☐ Robert Stojcevski *Preston*
- ☐ Robert Spasevski *Preston*
- ☐ Lou Bekiaris *Preston*
- ☐ Kris Trajanovski *Preston*
- ☐ Andrew Zinni *Preston*
- ☐ Angie Goutzioulis *Heidelberg United*
- ☐ Gary Bratten *Heidelberg United*
- ☐ Phil Stubbins *Heidelberg United*
- ☐ Francis Awaritife *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Mark Silic *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ Mark Talajic *Melbourne Croatia*
- ☐ David Healey *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Danny Wright *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Peter Tsolakis *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Michael Michaelakopoulos *South Melbourne*
- ☐ Robert Krajacic *Bulleen*
- ☐ Robert Brian *Thomastown*
- ☐ Gary McMullen *Morwell Falcons*
- ☐ Paul Della Rocca *Brunswick United*
- ☐ Goran Lozanovski *Altona Gate*

Coach: Tim White
Colours: Royal Blue and White

GARY BRATTEN

Victorian Representative – former professional in England with Cambridge United – current Heidelberg United Captain and Player of the Year – Heidelberg Development Officer.

MARK TALLAJIC

Victorian Representative – former Australian Youth Team player – Number of bad injuries have stopped him progressing in past years – last two years he has been one of Melbourne Croatia's most consistent players – not far away from being a full international.

FRANCES AWARITIFE

Arrived from England 3-4 years ago – Conference League – has set the League alight since his arrival – affectionately known as the 'black pearl' – currently one of top goal scorers in the National Soccer League.

MARK SILIC

1991 Youth World Cup Representative.

ROBERT SPASEVSKI

Victorian Representative All Ages – 1991 Youth World Cup Representative – senior player Preston – great prospect – former Lalor United player – Weinstein Medal Winner.

ROBERT STOJCEVSKI

Victorian Representative Player – 1991 World Cup Representative – senior player Preston – Great prospect – former Altona Gate Player.

LOU BEKIARIS

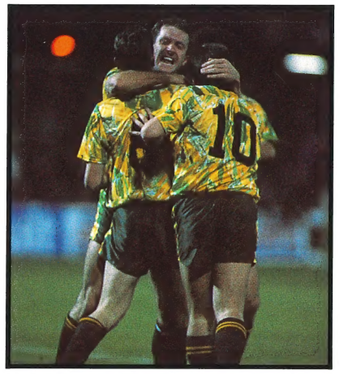
Victorian Representative – former Australian Institute of Sport Representative – former Heidelberg United player – another great prospect.

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI

Victorian Representative All Ages – former Australian Institute of Sport Representative – a Geelong product – senior player Preston – former National Youth Player of the Year.

ANDREW ZINNI

Victorian Representative All Ages – Australian Representative over 20 appearances – former Gold Medal winner.



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World Cup Finalists to play in Australia

by PETER DESIRA

Soccer writer for the Herald-Sun, Melbourne

AUSTRALIA WILL be the breeding ground for the 1998 and 2002 World Cup finals.

Stop to think about that for a few seconds – the million dollar superstars who will grace the biggest sporting event in France and Japan respectively will get their first airing on the soccer grounds in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Supposing that the French and the Japanese will host the World Cup finals after USA '94 may be just slightly premature, but it's an undeniable fact that wherever the Mundial is held, Australia will prove the springboard to launch several of the big names on the world scene.

Australia is hosting the World Youth Championship finals in 1993 – the first country to be granted the honour twice.

The World Youth Championship for the Coca-Cola Cup has become FIFA's most prized possession apart from the senior World Cup. After humble beginnings in Tunisia in 1977, the World Cup for 20-year-olds has gained relevance, importance, prestige and most importantly competitive edge simply because of the huge number of big names that have emerged from the competition.

Even ignoring the first two competitions which were termed as tournaments – and which produced the biggest name of all in Diego Maradona (in Japan in 1979), a total of 91 players who played in one of the six World Youth Championship editions have gone on to represent their countries at senior level in World Cup finals matches.

Australia hosted the first ever official World Youth Championship in 1981. From that series, 15 players of the calibre of Enzo Francescoli of Uruguay, Josimar of Brazil and Burruchaga of Argentina went on to play in the World Cup finals in 1986.

A further 14 including the likes of Neil Webb of England, Mauro Galvao of Brazil, Luis M'Fede of Cameroon, and Goicoechea of Argentina figured in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy (as well as Francescoli and Burruchaga for their second World Cup finals).

Youth Team members in Portugal with their pennants.

Australia gave it a start and since then it has turned into an avalanche.

Marco Van Basten, now revered as the number one striker in the world with his exploits for Milan and Holland, had his international start in the World Youth Championship in 1983.

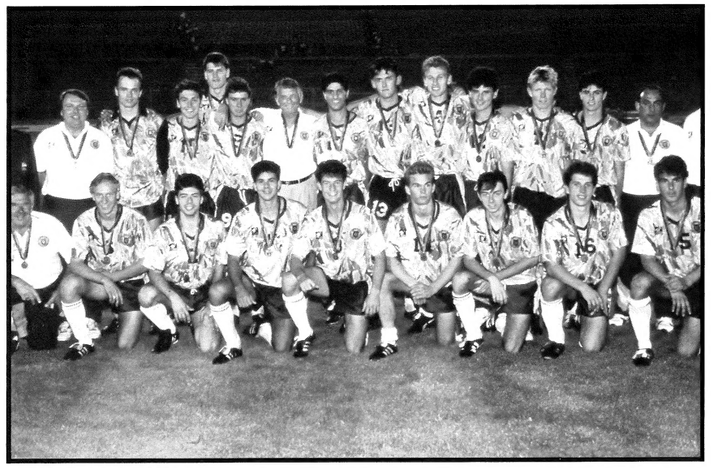
So did extrovert goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who first represented Colombia in the 1985 series in the USSR.

Brazilian stars like goalkeeper Taffarel, midfield general Silas, strikers Luis Muller and Bismarck all got their first crack in the Selecaio in the World Youth Championship.

So have the likes of Ruben Sosa of Uruguay, Anton Polster of Austria, Protasov of USSR and USA's Tony Meola.

Yugoslavia's biggest name, Robert Prosinecki, now playing for Real Madrid in Spain, was in the Yugoslav side which won the Coca-Cola Cup in 1987 in Chile. Zvonimir Boban, signed by Milan and loaned to Bari this season, also played in that team.

The championship has become the biggest scouting ground for players' agents. Milan's scouts were at the World Youth



The Australian Youth Team with their fourth place medals.

Championship finals in Portugal last June and snapped up strikers Elber of Brazil and Paolo Pineda of Mexico before loaning them out to clubs in Switzerland to enable them to gain the senior grounding before being called into the Italian league cauldron.

From a domestic point of view, Australia has gained enormously from fielding sides in the World Youth Championship. The Young Socceroos have done well to reach the finals in the 1981 (as hosts), 1983 (in Mexico), 1985 (in USSR), 1987 (in Chile) and 1991 (in Portugal).

A vast majority of players who played in those finals established themselves in the National Soccer League and several have gone on to represent Australia at senior level. Others have used it as a springboard to gain professional contracts overseas.

The Socceroos who have gained their grounding in the World Youth Championship include Steve Blair, Oscarino Crino, Peter Raskopoulos, David Mitchell and Jim Patikas from 1981, Tom McCulloch, Frank Farina, David Lowe and Anthony Franken from 1983, Andy Koczka, Alex Bundalo, Chris Kalantzis, Angie Postecoglou and Warren Spink from 1985, Paul Trimboli, Alistair Edwards, Abbas Saad, John Markovski and Jason Polak from 1987.

Mitchell, Patikas, Farina, Kalantzis, Saad and Edwards are among those who have played professionally overseas since.

National youth coach Les Scheinflug has already started the process of selecting the next lot of Young Socceroos who will have the honour of representing

Les Scheinflug in Portugal

Australia on home soil and have the responsibility of emulating the success achieved in Portugal.

That list will be headed by Kevin Muscat, who was among the stars in Portugal and is still young enough to compete in the next edition. Muscat, now playing for Heidelberg in the Coca-Cola Soccer League, is an outstanding candidate for the captaincy.

But there are others who have already had an initiation in the CCSL and will have gained senior experience come the 1993 series.

They include West Adelaide Sharks outstanding young striker Paul Agostino and Sydney Olympic defender Peter Tsekenis.

The Young Socceroos in action in Portugal.

Euro '92

by LES MURRAY, SBS

FOR SOCCEROO coach Eddie Thomson the series against Sweden is a building block in a long construction programme toward the World Cup of 1994. But Swedish supremo Tommy Svensson has more immediate priorities with USA 94 far in the back of his mind.

In barely four months Svensson's country hosts the ninth European Nations' Championship, a tournament the host nation is traditionally expected to excel in if not win.

Virtually an under-sized World Cup and, according to one view, more difficult to win, Euro 92 will pose a towering challenge for the man who picked up the pieces of Sweden's disappointing World Cup effort two years ago. Svensson's warriors will attempt to match it in an eight-nation, two week extravaganza with seven of Europe's most elite nations: Germany, Holland, England, France, Scotland, Yugoslavia and the USSR.

Already the worldwide television audience of the tournament has been estimated to top 3.9 billion, the highest ever for a European Championship, and the sixth highest for any event ever, ranking below only the 1990 World Cup (26.7 billion), the 1986 World Cup (13.5 billion), the 1988 summer Olympics (10.4 billion), the 1988 winter Olympics (6.5 billion) and the 1990 Formula 1 Grand Prix series (4 billion).

Such an audience is ensured because of the event's universal appeal, despite it being a regional tournament. Euro 92 will be televised in 120 countries, Australia among them through SBS.

The SBS plans to cover the event, all 15 games live, are well

underway with the telecasts due to take a similar look to the network's coverage of Italia 90. Mini documentaries on the four cities hosting the games – Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmo and Norrkoping – have already been shot during a three-week shooting expedition I undertook with an SBS crew to Sweden last July.

It was, let me admit, a most fulfilling experience, no less so than our journey to film Italy's World Cup cities in 1989. Euro 92 will have no better a host than majestic, culturally rich Sweden, Europe's most prosperous country, inhabited by people with a love of work but also of play and the great outdoors.

Stockholm, the capital, will play host to the opening game on June 10 but from then on will take second place in importance to its rival Gothenburg which will stage five games, including the final at the opulent Ullevi Stadium on June 26.

Gothenburg is indeed Sweden's football capital and its people, along with those of Malmo and Norrkoping, thumb their noses at the inhabitants of Stockholm for their higher affection for ice hockey.

Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg – Euro '92 Final venue, capacity 45,000.

With the eight nations split into two groups of four, Sweden and championship holders Holland, as seeded nations, will be on track to meet in the final. If that comes to pass, Tommy Svensson's boys will be up against Gullit, Van Basten, Rijkaard and company – the men who won the title so eloquently in Germany four years ago.

Some towering challenge. Some rehearsal for Tommy Svensson against the Australians.

Rasunda Stadium, Stockholm – Sweden's National Stadium, capacity 40,400.

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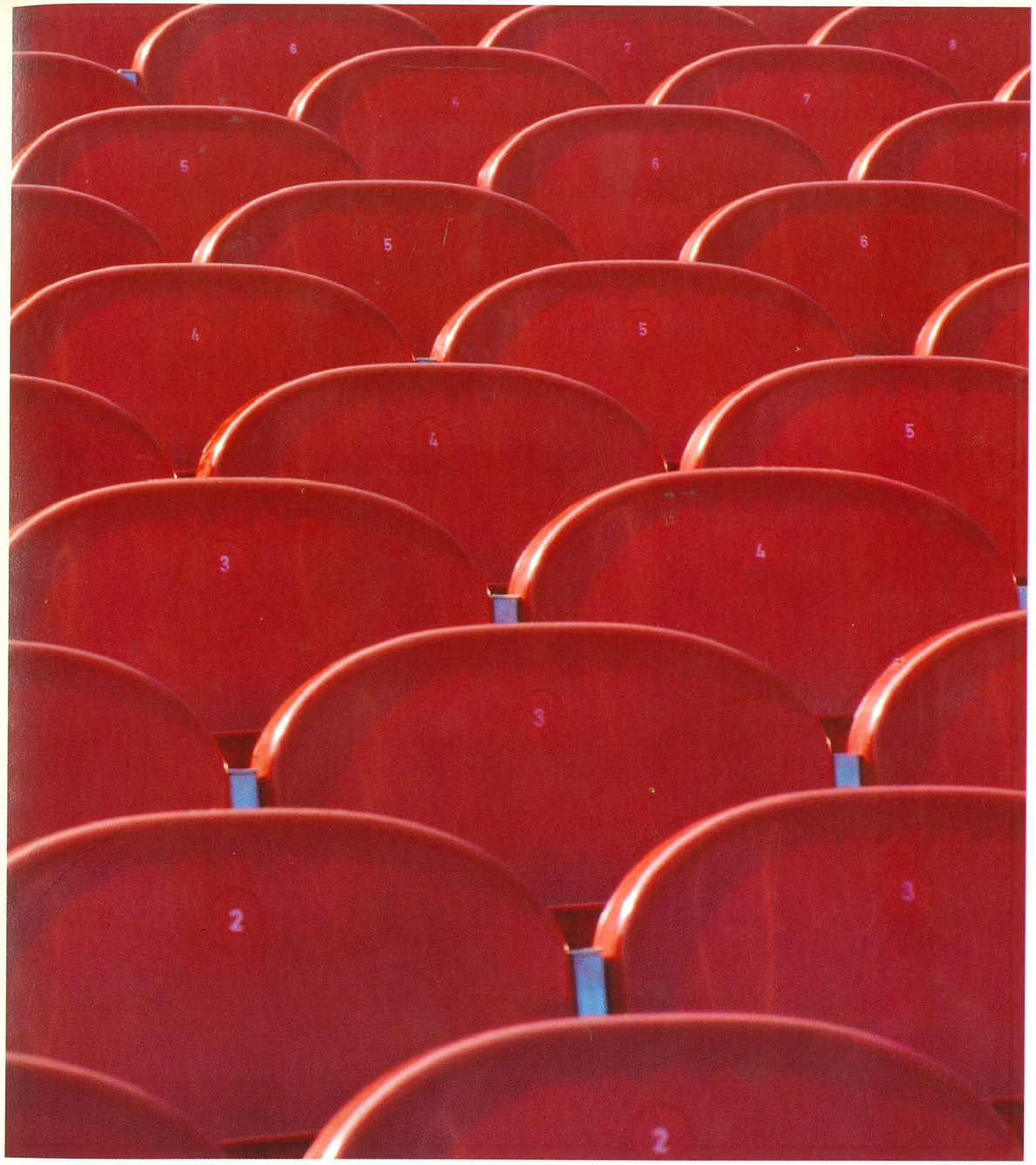

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